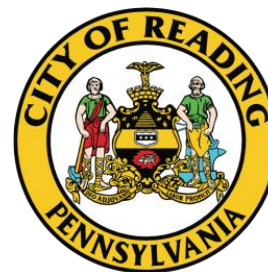


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Operation Save-A-Life

Reading, PA – June 2, 2015 – The City of Reading, Department of Fire and Rescue Services encourages all citizens to have working smoke detectors in their home.

The Office of the Fire Marshal is again sponsoring a fire safety program involving smoke detectors. The program is modeled on the national "Operation-Save-A-Life" program which is a free smoke detector giveaway and installation program available to home owners in the City of Reading.

The fire department will provide free smoke detectors, fire prevention literature, as well as complete the simple temporary installation of the smoke detectors. The program is designed to reduce incidents of fire injuries and death in residential owner/occupied homes.

"The Department of Fire and Rescue is committed to ensuring that all our residents have a safe and joyous summer," Mayor Spencer stated. "This giveaway will no doubt help to keep residents safer as smoke detectors properly placed and maintained have been proven to save lives and reduce property damage."

There are some qualification requirements for program participation:

- The dwelling must be OWNER/OCCUPIED (Rental and Lease to Buy properties are required by code to have smoke detectors furnished by the landlord/owner – this program WILL NOT provide smoke detection for these types of dwelling units. If you live in a rental property which lacks smoke detection, please contact the Citizen's Service Center at 1-877-727-3234 to report this dangerous condition).
- If an owner of a dwelling requests program participation, devices will be facilitated on a first come first serve basis, and will continue until all smoke detector supplies have been exhausted.
- Smoke detector installations will normally be done between the hours of 10AM and 3PM pending emergencies, weather conditions, etc.
- In addition to providing free smoke detectors, the fire department will also provide fire prevention literature for home owners to review (e.g. Home Fire Escape Planning, Kitchen Fire Safety, etc.).

The following lists the dates, locations and times for sign-up events.

- Riverside Fire Station – June 6th, 950 McKnight Street, from 9am-12pm
- 3rd & Court Fire Station – June 20th, 21-23 North 3rd Street, from 9am-12pm
- Plum & Franklin Fire Station – June 27th, 614 Franklin Street, from 9am-12pm
- Rainbow Fire Station – July 11th, 27 North 8th Street, from 9am-12pm
- Southwest Fire Station – July 25th, 101 Lancaster Avenue, from 9am-12pm
- 9th & Marion Fire Station – August 22nd, 1155 North 9th Street, from 9am-12pm

Comprehensive Fire Prevention techniques & tips are an occupant's first line of defense against fire. Working smoke detectors provide occupants crucial early warning that a fire has occurred and are vital for reducing injuries and death due to fire by providing occupants time to escape!

On average, occupants have less than three minutes from the time the first smoke alarm sounds to escape a fire. The sooner you hear a smoke detector, the more time you will have to get out!

The program will be facilitated through the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM), and interested homeowners can contact the OFM at 610-655-6080 or fire.marshall@readingpa.org to request program participation.

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